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# INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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SUBJECT Organization of Parachute and Airborne Regiments

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. [redacted] the training under Soviet supervision of parachute and airborne troops has made great progress in the last few months. It is stated that the first Hungarian airborne division will be activated soon at the Kaposvár-Taszár Airfield. There are certainly preparations going on which support such a supposition. It is a fact, that there are three regiments which could be amalgamated in such a unit: the parachute regiment at Kaposvár-Taszár; the airborne regiment at Baja; and the airborne regiment at Tab.

2. Regarding these units the following information is known: The 1st Hungarian Parachute Battalion was at the Szolnok Airfield until May-June 1950. It was afterward transferred to the Taszár Airfield, near Kaposvár (commonly called Kaposvár-Taszár) where it is now. In between it was at the Tapolca Airfield for some months, until the beginning of 1951.

Its commander at that time was Lieutenant Colonel Lajos Gyurkó.

He was transferred to Budapest in 1951, where he holds an important post in the aeronautical section of the Defense Ministry. Upon his being relieved, command of the battalion was taken over by Captain Ferenc Godó, who was a parachutist officer in the old Army. At the present time he has the following officers under him at Taszár: Captain Zoltán Kiss, training instructor; Lieutenant Pál Pados, training instructor; Second Lieutenant Ferenc Pados, training instructor; Lieutenant Károly Csordás, company commander; Second Lieutenant Jendő Tóth, company commander; Second Lieutenant Saláts (fnu), company commander.

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## 3. The battalion is organized as follows:

- a. Battalion commander  
Deputy commander  
Political officers  
Chief of staff  
Depot Service commander (personnel of about 40 in this section).
- b. Troops: Parachute Rifle Company--  
Company commander  
Deputy commander  
Political officer  
Company staff  
Three platoons, of three squads each  
The average strength of a company is 75 men  
Each squad is equipped with a Maxim heavy machine gun, a light machine gun, four machine pistols, and rifles.
- c. Parachute Mortar Company--  
Company commander  
Deputy commander  
Political officer  
Company staff  
Light Mortar Platoon: 25-27 men with three 80 mm mortars  
Medium Mortar Platoon: 26 men with three 100 mm mortars  
Infantry Platoon: one rifle squad, one machine pistol squad, one heavy machine gun squad with a Maxim machine gun.
- d. Antitank Company--  
Company commander  
Deputy commander  
Political officer  
Company staff  
Three platoons of two squads each. Each squad has a 45 mm antitank gun.
- e. Mixed Parachute Company--Information about this company is incomplete, but it probably is organized as follows:  
Company commander  
Deputy commander  
Political officer  
Company staff  
Communications platoon, of two or three squads  
Engineer platoon  
Antitank platoon, with two 76.2 mm guns  
Mortar platoon, with four 100 mm mortars.

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4. In 1951, about 1,200 recruits were called up to the battalion, from which two new battalions similar to the first were organized. The staff of the 1st Battalion was enlarged to a regimental staff. [redacted] The original battalion staff apparently was not greatly increased. The main difference was that the depot service section received more personnel, and a number of new trucks were placed at the service of the unit. The regimental staff is considerably smaller than that of an infantry regiment, chiefly because the greater part of the supplies are provided through the service division of the home airfield. [redacted] all parachute troops are directly under the ministry.
5. A former infantry regiment at Baja has recently been designated an airborne regiment. It works with the parachute regiment, from which it is supposed that they will soon be organized as a unit. This regiment is quartered in the new barracks on Vaskuti Street, in Baja. [redacted] The regimental instructors at Taszár often go to Baja to direct training there. The commander at Baja is a major (name unknown); the political officer is Captain Károly Molnár.
6. At Tab, 50 kilometers northeast of Kaposvár, is an infantry regiment which also has just been designated an airborne regiment. These three regiments will constitute the 1st Hungarian Airborne Division.
7. Neither the parachute regiment nor the airborne regiments have their own airplane parks. The planes are furnished from the Ferihegy Airfield by the Hungarian-Soviet airline company "Maszovlet" and by Hungarian air units from the Kecskemét Airfield. At one time six or seven Soviet Li-2 transport planes were detailed.
8. The best parachutists are sent to Russia in small groups, where they complete their training in three to six months.
9. The division of the Defense Ministry which the parachute and airborne troops are under is headed by General Staff Major Béla Karsay. He is an acknowledged expert, but has never been promoted because of his classification as a reactionary.
10. The parachute troops formerly wore white shoulder boards, as part of the Air Force. Since the end of 1949, they wear green epaulets on a white ground. Recruits and ground personnel wear an insignie on the right breast of silver-gray material on a green ground. Parachutists who have made their first six jumps receive a white metal insignie. After 80 jumps they get a silver cross, to which a bar is added after 123 leaps.

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11. A parachutist's equipment consists of a helmet, an overall, a knife, boots with rubber soles 4 cm. thick, a pair of gloves, goggles, a chest-pack parachute and a back-pack parachute.
12. Parachutists are given the regular infantry training for the first six weeks. Then follows a theoretical schooling, supplemented later by practical example. During the theoretical training they learn how to fold the parachute, the correct bodily position for jumping, the theory of parachute combat, the basic principles of partisan warfare behind the enemy's lines, jumping from a tower, jumping from a scaffold with counterweights, and the like. Jumping drills from airplanes are held at regular intervals over the Puszta River between Szolnok and Kecskemét. Every man must jump six times. The first jump is from a height of 600 meters, with a parachute attached. Then come jumps from 1,000, 1,500 and 2,000 meters with free parachutes. High, trick and master jumps are only permitted after the 80th jump. Soviet officers are always present as advisers at the drills. The general training is also supervised by Soviet officers. No Soviet officers are assigned permanently to the parachute regiment.

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